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USAG Schinnen Tri-Border News Notes

US ARMY



Workshop Helps People Deal with Grief during Holiday Season

By LaDonna Davis

For many, the holiday season is a time to gather and celebrate with family and friends, be cheerful and take comfort in all the blessings that the season has to offer. But, for a person who has lost a loved one, the holidays can seem like a dark tunnel with no light in sight and can even seem unbearable.

For those who have lost a loved one and find it hard to deal with the festive season, the Joint Forces Command Brunssum Chaplains Office has put together a workshop called Loss and the Holidays.

The workshop gives people tools, information and coping mechanisms that could make dealing with the loss of a loved one less difficult, especially around the holiday season.

The workshop is taught by JFC Brunssum Chaplain Zan Sellers. As a former hospice grief counselor, Sellers learned that grief can apply to many situations in life other than death; whether it is the loss of a job, loss of a marriage or the loss of child going to college. But, Sellers says though all of those losses can be significant, it is important to make the distinction of loss due to death.

"When a person is

dealing with someone who's died, they're dealing with a loss that's gone forever, they'll never get that person back and there's no hope that they'll ever return, unlike, say, a child going to college," said Sellers. "And, the holidays are always the toughest part of the year to deal with death because they're six weeks long, everybody has them and traditionally that's a time when families and friends get together. It's also dark, cold and the days are shorter, it can be a very depressing time."

"When a person is dealing with someone who's died, they're dealing with a loss that's gone forever, They'll never get that person back and there's no hope that they'll ever return."

As part of the workshop Sellers makes it a point to tell participants what the normal grieving process is and how to deal with it.

"One of the biggest myths is that there are successive stages to grief and once you go through a stage, you'll never go back to it," Sellers says. "I don't think Elizabeth Kubler-Ross (author of 'Five Stages of Grief') ever meant to sound like stages or steps, because what you do is you can bounce around and go back. For instance once you're through with shock, denial or bargaining it doesn't mean you're never going to go back

to it."

The workshop also gives griever the opportunity to participate in some hands on activities that will help them memorialize the person that they've lost. By using everyday materials such as magazines, markers and poster board, griever can express their memories of the person they lost and even share them with other people if they so choose.

"The truth is that grief feels like you've fallen into this giant pit, but when

you adjust you come out and get on the main road

of life, and that's what I would like people to get out of the workshop," said Sellers. "I would like individuals to be able to make it through the holidays with confidence that they will come out on the other side okay. Yes, after the holidays are over they've still got a loss, but they would have dealt with it better and they'll understand expectations better."

The next Loss and the Holidays workshop will be held, Dec. 7 at the JFC Brunssum Chapel, 3rd floor from 7:00-8:30 p.m. For more information contact the Chaplains office at 364-2307

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NEWS

Story Time One Year Anniversary

By LaDonna Davis

This November, the Story Time Read Aloud program marked its one year anniversary with a special celebration in the Schinnen Bookmark which included two special guest book readers, a cake and live music.

USAG Schinnen Commander, Lt. Col. Eric Tilley and his wife Angela Tilley volunteered their time on Nov 14, to read a selection of books from their own personal home collection to the young story time listeners.

Since its inception one year ago, the story time hour has grown into a regular weekly activity that is held in the Schinnen Bookmark and gives parents the chance to expose their children to reading at a young age and gives children a chance to hear different themed books read to them and engage in activities and songs that help stimulate their minds.

The program was started by Jenna Ross, a Tri-Border community member who recognized the lack of reading programs for young children to attend in the community after she and her family moved to the Netherlands.

"When we came here, we did discover a great little children's library here at JFC Brunssum, but there was no story time at all and it just seemed tragic in our educated community; and being a mom of three kids and knowing a lot of other moms with kids I really saw a need for this in our community," Ross said.

Celebrating one year of reading out loud is a feat that Ross says she is so happy and proud to have accomplished. And by having the Schinnen commander and his wife read to the children only made the celebration that more special.

"We are so pleased to have Col. Tilley and Mrs. Tilley read today and help us celebrate this wonderful occasion," Ross said at the anniversary reading.

After the books were read, all of the young story time kids gathered around the celebratory cake to blow out the one year candle and proceeded to partake in an early morning sugar rush. The celebration was capped off by a selection of songs played by Ross's husband on guitar.



HHD Family Day

Soldiers and their families came out to the Memory Lane Schinnen Bowling center, Nov. 17 to participate in the first HHD Family Day. The day gave Soldiers a chance to mingle and socialize with other Soldiers while spending time with their loved ones. Families gathered to bowl, participate in some arts and crafts and eat a specially cooked meal.



NEWS

MP Tips Keep Holidays Safe

By Robert Szostek

The holiday season is a time when people buy gifts, eat out and go on vacation. So it is also a time when thieves are active.

“Our statistics show that USAREUR personnel are seldom targets for thieves,” said Lt. Col. Carol A. McKinney, chief of law enforcement operations at the USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal. But on average 23 USAREUR personnel fall victim to pickpockets every month, she added. Most are targeted in bars and clubs, or in other crowded places such as train stations, airports, stores or restaurants.

To deter pickpockets, McKinney recommends you carry your purse in front of you close to your body, not dangling by the straps, and keep it zipped or snapped shut. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket. “Don’t leave valuables in your coat pocket if you

hang it up or drape it over a chair at a restaurant,” she advised.

In general, it is best to be aware of distractions. If you are answering a stranger’s questions, or if someone helps you move packages to get on a bus or train, that person may have an accomplice behind you to pick your pocket, purse or backpack.

McKinney said car break-ins occur most frequently when the thief sees a GPS navigator, laptop, wallet, purse or item of military clothing in plain sight in a parked car – usually a car parked on a street.

To prevent these break-ins, she said, park in a parking garage or well-lighted space and lock the doors when you leave the vehicle. Always secure shopping bags or valuables in the trunk, especially when visiting major tourist cities such as Prague, Paris, Venice or Rome.

McKinney also urged people to lock their doors whenever they leave their

house, apartment or barracks room, even if it is only for a short time. She also offered the following tips if you are traveling this Christmas:

- ◆ Don’t advertise that you will be away from your home or barracks room. Only give the information to people who need to know.
- ◆ Soldiers living in the barracks should secure personal belongings in a wall locker.
- ◆ To make it easier for the MPs to recover any stolen goods, make a list of your valuables. Take photos of them and list their serial numbers.

More useful tips to keep your holidays safe and happy are available online from the National Crime Prevention Council at www.ncpc.org/cms/cms-upload/ncpc/files/holiday04.pdf or from your local Provost Marshal office.

Thanksgiving and Holiday Season Safety

By Gen. David. D. McKiernan

Thanksgiving and the holiday season will be here before we know it. This is a special time of year. Thanksgiving provides an opportunity to reflect on our freedom and give thanks for our blessings. Christmas and Hanukkah are traditional times to gather with family and friends and share the joy of the season. As we celebrate over the holidays with our loved ones, let us take time to think about those who are deployed in support of our Nation’s conflicts. Let us also remember to remain vigilant in terms of safety.

I recently pledged our support of the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff goal to reduce accident rates in fiscal year 2007 by 20 percent. I am fully confident that we will meet this goal if the caring spirit of the holiday season carries over into our relationships with

fellow Soldiers and our Under the Oak Tree counseling. You can make a difference in someone’s life this holiday season by showing you care and practicing the concepts of *Don’t Walk By*. Our caring about the welfare of our battle buddies will result in fewer accidents and help prevent fatalities.

Our fatality rate so far this fiscal year is lower than it was last year at this time. However, even one death is too many. We recently lost two young Soldiers in a tragic nighttime encounter with a high-speed train. This tragedy represents the stark reality of what can happen if we do not consider the possible consequences of our actions.

We can help ensure that this holiday season will be a safe one by planning carefully to identify and mitigate hazards. Previous holiday seasons have been marred by excessive alcohol con-

sumption, vehicle crashes, suicides, domestic violence, quarters fires, and recreational injuries, all of which take people away from the mission. Let us keep this in mind as we plan our celebrations and take steps to avoid dangerous situations. Those who plan to drive should use the Automated Safety Management Information System (ASMIS)-2 privately owned vehicle risk-assessment tool to help ensure a safe trip.

I am grateful for your dedicated service to our Nation. Stay in the fight by actively managing those conditions that could take you or your buddy out of the Global War on Terrorism. Think through your plans, identify the hazards, and know your personal limitations. In other words, *Own the Edge* as you enjoy the holidays!

NEWS

Bankruptcy

A personnel security concern

Thousands of Soldiers, Airmen, and Marines have had their security clearances REVOKED due to FINANCIAL IRRESPONSIBILITY. They are not eligible for an Overseas PCS assignment due to possible espionage. The below article same subject as above is provided as part of USAG Schinnen NL continuous security education program.

BANKRUPTCY – A PERSONNEL SECURITY CONCERN?

The significance of bankruptcy in regards to security eligibility depends upon the cause of the bankruptcy. If an individual was not at fault for the financial problems, bankruptcy may be an appropriate solution (See list of mitigating conditions below). In such mitigating cases, bankruptcy would not be a disqualifying factor for security eligibility. If bankruptcy was due to financial irresponsibility and there has been no changes in behavior or lifestyle, or if financial irresponsibility has continued thereafter, then it is a very serious concern.

Basics of Bankruptcy

Bankruptcy is a legal procedure that relieves a debtor of responsibility for some or all debts. Bankruptcy is not always bad and is far more common than most people realize. According to The Administrative Office of the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts, during fiscal year 2004, a total of 1,854,170 individuals filed personal bankruptcies. The average age for filing bankruptcy was 38; with 44% being couples, 30% were women, and 26% were men. Two out of three individuals had lost a job, and half had experienced a serious health problem. Fewer than 9% did not suffer either a job loss, medical event, or a divorce. So many people experience financial problems through no fault of their own.

It is important to understand the difference between discharge of a bankruptcy and dismissal of a bankruptcy, as these two similar words have opposite meanings.

Discharge of a bankruptcy petition means the petition has been approved and the subject is no longer responsible for the debts specified in the petition.

Dismissal of a bankruptcy petition means the bankruptcy court has rejected the petition or the debtor has withdrawn it. The individual is still responsible for his or her debts. Dismissal by the court may mean there has been some wrong doing, such as fraud or failure to explain satisfactorily any loss or disappearance of assets that might be used to meet the debtor's liabilities. Or, it may mean that the debtor was unable or unwilling to comply with the terms of the bankruptcy.

Successful discharge of a bankruptcy petition does not necessarily wipe out all of a debtor's assets, nor does it necessarily eliminate all of the debts. A debtor's home is protected, as are income from Social Security, unemployment, veterans, disability benefits as is alimony and child support to the extent that they are reasonable necessary for sup-

port of the debtor.

Similarly, some of the debts cannot be discharged through bankruptcy. These include certain tax liabilities; debts incurred by fraud, embezzlement, or larceny; alimony or child support; fines imposed by any government; student loans (unless not exempting them would cause "undue hardship"); debts from a credit spree just before filing for bankruptcy; damages from drunk driving; and any debt not included in the debtor's list of liabilities included in the bankruptcy petition.

The two principal ways for an individual to file for personal bankruptcy are Chapter 7 and Chapter 13. Chapter 12 is similar to Chapter 13 but limited to individual operating a family farm. Chapter 11 applies to corporations.

Chapter 7: This is the most common type of bankruptcy and is sometimes referred to as straight bankruptcy or liquidation. The debtor may retain future earnings but loses all current assets except those declared exempt from the bankruptcy. Certain essential assets, as noted above, are normally exempt. All non-exempt assets are sold by a court-appointed trustee to pay off unsecured creditors as much as possible. The remaining debts are then cancelled. A Chapter 7 filing usually remains on a credit report for ten years and cannot be repeated for six years. More than two-thirds of all bankruptcy filings are made under Chapter 7. Of these, about 95% are "no asset" cases where all property of the debtor is exempt from sale by the court-appointed trustee.

Chapter 13: Chapter 13 is sometimes referred to as the wage earner's plan, as it is designed for individuals with regular income who desire to pay their debts but are currently unable to do so. The primary benefit of relief is the ability to consolidate debts and repay creditors, in full or in part, in installments over a 3-5 year period. During this time, creditors are prohibited from collections efforts. The payments are supervised by a court-appointed trustee. Any remaining debts are cancelled at the time the individual emerges from the bankruptcy proceeding. The record of the Chapter 13 filing remains in one's credit report for 7 years.

There are fewer stigmas attached to Chapter 13 bankruptcy than Chapter 7. Chapter 13 demonstrates a sincere effort to pay off debts, rather than write off the debts and be free of them. Under some circumstances, this may be favorable evidence that the subject possesses a strong sense of personal responsibility. Filing for bankruptcy under Chapter 13 rather than Chapter 7 may be a positive indicator, as it shows a serious commitment to repay debt.

Business Bankruptcies: Most business bankruptcies are actually personal bankruptcies under Chapter 7 or Chapter 13. This is because most businesses are either sole proprietorships or partnerships where the individual is personally liable for the business debts.

Corporations file for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy code, which allows a business to reorganize as a going concern rather than be liqui-

dated. It provides the business with breathing room to scale down its operations and work out a plan of repayment acceptable to its creditors.

MITIGATING CONDITIONS

The Adjudicative Guidelines identify 5 conditions that could mitigate security concerns in relation to bankruptcy and financial considerations. These conditions are listed below.

1. **Not Recent:** many immature young persons go through a period of some financial irresponsibility. The problems are often resolved as they mature and assume the obligations of steady employment or marriage. Past financial irresponsibility may be mitigated by a change to a more responsible lifestyle, including steady employment, reduction of credit card debt, and favorable change in financial habits over a period of time (generally one year). Other examples of a changed lifestyle that may affect a subject's finances are: destruction of credit cards, separation from a cohabitant or spouse that was causing financial problems, or a changed pattern of friendships or social activities.
 2. **Isolated Incident:** A single unpaid debt, regardless of amount, may not be concerns if it is explained by a special circumstance, e.g., if there are valid reasons for contesting the debt.
 3. **Indebtedness Beyond Subject's Control:** Debt is often beyond a person's control, for example, loss of employment, a business downturn, accidental loss of property not covered by insurance, unexpected medical emergency, or a death, divorce or separation. The financial issue may be mitigated if there is no clear personal fault and subject has responded to the indebtedness in a reasonable and responsible manner. The whole person evaluation is relevant under these circumstances. A responsible person with good judgment and strong character is more likely to weather financial adversity without becoming a security risk than an individual whose record includes some immature, irresponsible, or rule-breaking behavior.
 4. **Receiving Counseling:** If the person has received or is receiving counseling for the financial problem and there are clear indications that the problem is being resolved or is under control, this may mitigate the issue. If subject has participated conscientiously in credit counseling, a debt repayment program, or Debtors Anonymous or Gamblers Anonymous for at least 6 months, it is likely that the problem is being resolved. Claims that past delinquent debts have been paid off should be documented.
- Good Faith Effort to Repay:** Even without a formal credit counseling program, a person may make a good-faith effort to repay overdue creditors or otherwise resolve debts. One year of systematic effort to satisfy creditors, or to acknowledge debts and arrange for reduced payments, may indicate responsible behavior toward financial obligations – especially if subject has also changed to be a more responsible lifestyle. Claims that past delinquent debts have been paid off should be documented.

LEISURE

Leisure Activities ~ by Rita Hoefnagels

Nov. 23-26: Indoor *Finnish Christmas Market* at Finse Zeemanskerk on 's-Gravendijkwal 64 in Rotterdam (NL). Open: Thursday, 4-9 p.m.; Friday, 1-9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Nov. 23-Dec. 21: *Christmas Market* at historic Römerberg, Paulsplatz and Mainkai in the center of Frankfurt am Main (GER). Open: Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Nov. 23-Dec. 23: *Christmas Market* in Bamberg (GER). Open: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Christmas Market at Neumarkt and Alter Markt in the center of Cologne (GER). Around the Imhoff-Stollwerck-chocolademuseum (chocolate museum) one will find a *Medieval Christmas Market* and a *Fairy Tale Christmas Market* at Rudolfplatz. Open: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Special is the *Floating Christmas Market*. On board of the "MS Wappen von Mainz" you can browse for presents at the more than 40 stands and enjoy a glass of wine and the view of the Old Town and the cathedral. The "MS Wappen von Mainz" can be found in the Old Town near the Cologne philharmonic orchestra house. Open: 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Christmas Market in the center of Dortmund (GER). This is one of Germany's largest and most beautiful Christmas Markets. Open: Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sundays, noon-9 p.m.

Romantic *Nikolausmarkt* at Market Square in the old historic center of Düsseldorf (GER). Open: Sundays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. and Fridays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

International Christmas Market in the center of Essen (GER) with 265 stands and a beautiful 18 meter high Christmas tree. Open daily 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Christmas Market in the center of Krefeld (GER). Open 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Nov. 24-26: *Christmas Fair* at De Voorste Venne Estate near Drunen (NL) in the province of Brabant. At this exclusive fair you will find exclusive decorations, glass, fashion, China, in- and exterior designed furniture and decorations and lots more. Entry: €5. Open: Fridays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Nov. 24-27: Large *Christmas Market* at Place Saint Job in Uccle (BE). Some hundred Belgian, German, Dutch and French stand holders will participate offering a huge selection of gifts such as Christmas items; craftsmanship; jewelry; candles; gadgets and season delicatessen. Open: Nov. 24, noon-10 p.m.; Nov. 25, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Nov. 26, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Nov. 27, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. No entrance fees.

Nov. 24-Dec. 17: *Christmas Market* in attractive stands along the River Mosel in Cochem (GER). Open: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Nov. 24-Dec. 21: *Christmas Market* at Market Square in the center of Heinsberg (GER), open daily noon-8 p.m.

Nov. 24-Dec. 23: *Christmas Market* around the attractive historic Town Hall in the center of Aachen (GER), open daily 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Christmas Market at Münsterplatz; Botterplatz and Friedensplatz in the center of Bonn (GER), open: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Christmas Market at the romantic market square in the center of Monschau (GER). The market is **only** open on Fridays, 2-8 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Nov. 25-26: *Winter Christmas Fair* around Castle Amstenrade in Amstenrade (NL). Entry: €3.50. Open: Nov. 25, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Nov. 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Christmas & Creative Fair at Antwerp Expo on Jan van Rijswijcklaan in Antwerp (BE) is a large indoor Fair with more than just a traditional Christmas Market. Open both days 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: €6; children 12 and younger – free entrance.

Nov. 25-26 & Dec. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18: Indoor *Christmas Market* at the Zoo on Bukenberg in Olmen (BE). Entry: €6.

Nov. 25-Dec. 23: *Floating Christmas Market* in Maasricht (NL). Stiphout Shipping Company's largest ship, which can be found at the Maaspromenade, is in this period the location of a Christmas Market. The ship is decorated for Christmas and features all kind of attractive stands with traditional and typical Christmas items. There is no entrance fee and the market is open during normal shopping hours.

Through Nov. 26: *PAN Amsterdam* at RAI Parkhal in Amsterdam (NL) is the largest national Art and Antique Fair in the Netherlands. Open daily 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Entry: €12.50 (incl. catalogue).

The *Country & Christmas Fair* at Castle De Haar in Haarzuilens (near Utrecht) (NL) is an attractive fair in the beautiful setting of the castle. Open: Nov. 22-25, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Nov. 26, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: €14.50; children (12-16) €7.50.

Nov. 29-Dec. 23: *Christmas Market* in the center of Brühl (GER), open: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Christmas Market in the center of Mannheim (GER), open: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Christmas Fair in center of Mainz (GER). Open: Sundays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Fridays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Christmas Market at the historic Lady Mary Chapel (Marienkapelle) and Falkenhaus square in the center of Würzburg (GER). A beautiful *Christmas Art Market* can be found at the inner court of the old Ratskeller on Domstrasse. Open daily 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Nov. 30-Dec. 23: *Christmas Fair* at the historic Market Square against the imposing back-drop of the over thousand year old Cathedral in the center of Mainz (GER). Open: Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Dec. 1-3: *Nikolaus Market* in the center of Geilenkirchen (GER), open: Dec. 1, 4-8 p.m.; Dec. 2-3, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Dec. 1-17: *Christmas Market* in beautiful medieval and romantic Rothenburg ob der Tauber (GER). Open: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Dec. 1-23: *Münchner Christkindlmarkt (Christmas Market)* at several locations in the center of München (GER).

Lucrezia Market, a special market with cute wooden stands filled with charming art and crafts and all kinds of delicatessen at Haidplatz and Kohlenmarkt in Regensburg (GER). Open: daily 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

Dec. 2: *Christmas Market* at Alter Markt in the center of Mönchengladbach (GER), open: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dec. 2-3: Unique *Christmas Market* at the former mining grounds in Beringen (BE). Open: noon-5 p.m.

Christmas & Creative Fair at Limburghal on Jaarbeurslaan in Genk (BE). Open both days 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: €6; children 12 and younger – free entrance.

trance.

Attractive *Christmas Market* within the walls of a farm. The stately old "quarter" farm "Het Hof ten Hemelrijk" in Opwijk (BE) is a perfect and picturesque background for a Christmas market. Open: 1-7 p.m.

Belgium's largest *Christmas Fair* (indoor) is located at the Oktoberhallen in Wieze (BE). Entry: €3. Open: Dec. 2, 2-7 p.m.; Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Dec. 2-22: *Medieval Christmas Market* at Market Square in the center of Siegburg (GER) open daily 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Dec. 2-30: *Christmas Village* at Place de Marché and Place Saint Lambert in Liège (BE) has become one of the largest and most attractive fairs in Belgium. "Village de Noël" is a festive and friendly Belgian mix of Alsatian and German Christmas ingredients.

Dec. 2-Jan. 1: *Winter Wonders* in Brussels (BE). Every winter, the heart of Brussels beats to the rhythm of "plaisirs d'Hiver (winter pleasures) featuring a magical décor; a beautiful European Christmas Market (Europe's most originally) which is illuminated by the Big Wheel; roundabouts; street activities and an ice-skating rink. Open: Mondays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fridays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. The ice-skating rink is open daily till 10 p.m.

Dec. 3: The *Sinterklaas and Christmas Market* in the center of Bocholtz (NL) is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and features, besides more than 50 stands, both Sinterklaas and Santa Claus.

Dec. 4: *Winter Year Market* in the center of Sint-Niklaas (BE) starts at 10 a.m.

Dec. 7-10: Attractive *Christmas Country Fair* at "Heerlijkheid Mariënwaerd" estate near the town of Beesd (NL). The Main house is open to the public; there will be choirs and more than 50 stands with a variety of Christmas articles. Sledge rides are also available. Open: Dec. 7-9, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: €10. Take the A2 highway Utrecht-Den Bosch; exit at #14 Beesd. Follow signs "Kerstfair".

"*Kerst Crea*" – *Christmas Fair* at Beursgebouw, Lardinoisstraat in Eindhoven (NL). Open: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Entry: €8; children – free entrance.

"*Season of Light*" *Indoor Winter & Christmas Fair* at IJsselhallen, Rieteweg 4 in Zwolle (NL). The large halls are transformed in an enchanting village with pagoda tents magical illuminated and attractive decorated. Restaurants are also available. Open: Dec. 7-8, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 9-10, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: €8.50; children (12 and younger) free entrance. The IJsselhallen complex is located near the A28 and therefore easy accessible.

Through Dec. 19: *Christmas Market* in Fluweelengrot (Velvet Cave) on Daalhemmerweg 27 in Valkenburg (NL). A unique Christmas Market held in the unique environment of the caves under the castle ruins. Opens in the weekends at 10 a.m. and on weekdays at noon; Closes Sundays – Thursdays at 8 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 9 p.m. Entry: €3.75; children (4-11) €1.75.

Christmas Market in a Cave at Gemeentegrot in the center of Valkenburg (NL). Open on weekdays, noon-9 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Entry: €3.50; children (4-11) €1.75.

SCHINNEN NOTES

Turkey 101...

How to make that commissary turkey the best ever

If you're the appointed turkey cook this Thanksgiving and you're stressing to the max because you've never done it before, take comfort in knowing this — roasting the turkey is the easiest part of the entire traditional feast. Check your commissary for the turkey tailored to your specific needs — we've got them big and small and everything in between. We've got disposable roasting pans to cook them in (meaning easy clean-up), turkey roasting bags (meaning faster cooking time) and instant-read thermometers (meaning greater safety.) Just choose the products that suit your goal, arm yourself with the following basic guidelines and tips, and you'll be "good to go."

How much do you need? Plan on cooking one-half to three-quarters a pound per person for a regular bone-in turkey, and about one-third a pound per person for a boneless breast or turkey roast. Allow for a bit more if you want plenty of leftovers. Have a houseful of white-meat-only or dark-meat-only lovers? A breast or turkey legs alone might be a better choice than a whole bird. However, if you go this route, you give up the turkey carcass that makes for such good soup once the main feast is over — decisions, decisions!

How long does it take to thaw? Short answer — a long time! Place the frozen turkey on a tray in the refrigerator and allow five hours per pound to complete the thawing process. Depending on size, this can take from two to five days. To speed things up a bit, remove the giblet packet and neck from inside the turkey and thaw them separately. Be sure to check both the body cavity and the neck cavity for these; sometimes they are stored in two packets.

If time is short, use the *cold water*

method for thawing, but do so carefully.

Spoilage bacteria can multiply rapidly at temperatures above 40 F (4.5 C). With the turkey in its original wrapper, place in a large container and cover completely with cold water. Change the water every 30 minutes and allow an hour per pound for total thawing time.

How to roast? Preheat the oven to 325 F (163 C). Remove giblet packets from inside the turkey, then rinse inside and out with cold water and pat dry with paper towels. Rub the body and neck cavities generously with salt, and insert a medium onion (cut into quarters) and two or three celery sticks with leaves. Sprinkle the skin with salt, then brush all over with melted butter or oil. Place the turkey breast-side-up in a shallow roasting pan and roast on the lowest oven rack until a meat thermometer inserted in the thickest part of the thigh registers 175 to 180 F (79-82 C), and in the breast 160 to 165 F (71-74 C). Refer to your turkey's original wrapper for approximate total roasting times, which can range from 2.75 to 3 hours for a small turkey to 4.5 to 5 hours for a large one.

Remove the turkey from the oven, tent loosely with aluminum foil and let it rest for 15 to 20 minutes before carving.

If you're a tad on the impatient side, or you just need to free the oven for other dishes to complement the turkey, consider using an oven roasting bag. You won't produce a picture-perfect turkey with a roasting bag, but looks only matter if you plan to make a big production of carving a beautiful bird at the table. The skin of an oven-bag-cooked turkey will be only lightly brown with some variation in coloring, and it won't be crisp like that of a traditionally roasted bird. The meat

will be moist, tender and juicy, though, and the technique can save substantial oven time (from 1 to 1.5 hours, depending on size). Look for the oven bags located near the aluminum foil, and follow the package instructions.

Don't want to roast at all, but prefer to grill or fry instead? You're on your own when it comes to supplying the special equipment for deep-frying turkey, but the commissary's got you covered on the seasonings, injection syringes and the copious quantities of peanut oil you'll need. We even have recipes for turkey grilling or frying on *Kay's Kitchen*, a special culinary page on the Defense Commissary Agency's official Web site.

To stuff or not to stuff? If your favorite part of the Thanksgiving meal is the stuffing, then by all means choose a reliable recipe and give it a try. Just be aware that food safety experts consider it a breeding ground for pathogens that can make you sick if not done properly. For first-timers, baking a pan of dressing separately is usually easier and definitely safer.

The decision to "stuff yourself," however, is totally up to you! From my viewpoint, it's the one day each year when it's the totally acceptable thing to do. I'll burn off those extra calories by adding some distance to my daily walk, I tell myself — but I'll probably need a nap first. After that, I'll see you at the commissary!

Visit *Kay's Kitchen* at <http://www.commissaries.com> under the "shopping" link for more details on Thanksgiving turkey, along with recipes for dressing, fresh cranberry sauce, candied sweet potatoes, pumpkin pie and more.

SCHINNEN NOTES

Schinnen Community Update

Schinnen Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony The annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. at the USAG Schinnen Emma Mine Complex. All Tri-Border community members and family are invited to attend.

Dutch Head Start Class Rescheduled The Dutch Head Start Class for the Nov. 27-30 has been cancelled. It has been rescheduled for Dec. 4-7, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Mon-Thurs.

Dutch Cultural Awareness Class A very special event for children and adults, "Sinterklaas" takes place Dec. 5 and 6 in the Netherlands. To learn more about this wonderful tradition and how Sinterklaas differs from, and at the same time is a bit the same as Santa Claus, a Dutch Cultural class will be held on Dec. 1 at 1:00p.m. in the HQ Conference Room.

Please sign up before COB Wednesday, Nov. 29 by calling 360-7331

TDY Orders and approval

Please ensure you have notified all USAG Schinnen soldiers and civilians that when routing your TDY orders they must be accompanied by the travelers up to date *anti-terrorism level one training* certificate. To complete the training go to <https://atlevel1.dtic.mil/at/>. You orders will not be approved through the AT/FP Officer without the certificate.

Parents Night Out at the CDC. Are you looking for an evening out? Need someone to take care of your children? The Child Development Center on JFC will be open on Saturday Dec. 16 from 6:00 p.m. until midnight. Children must be registered with Child & Youth Services. Cost is \$25 per child (6 wks – 12 years old). A minimum of 10 children is required to hold this special opening. Call 364-2575 for information and sign-up.

Snow White Auditions The Alliance Players are holding auditions for the upcoming production of 'Snow White - The Panto', due to open in March 2007. Auditions are open to adults and children of all ages and are held on Monday, Nov 20th and Wednesday, Nov 22nd at 6pm at the Alliance Theatre, JFC HQ Brunssum.

Loss and the Holidays Workshop "Loss and the Holidays" is a workshop for persons that have had a loved one die and believes the holidays could be difficult for them. The workshop will be held from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Dec. 7 at JFC Brunssum Chapel, third floor. The workshop will give practical tips for dealing with holiday stress and difficulties because of a loved one's death. Call 364.2307/2940 to reserve your place in the class

Operation Christmas Stocking Please drop-off your donations to Operation Christmas Stocking in the following loca-

tions: Bowling Center, Post Office, Commissary, Public Affairs Office, GK Post Office, Army Community Service, Army and Air Force Elements at JFC Brunssum. From toiletries to clothes, to cards, all donations will be accepted. For information call 360-7207

AFAP Conference 2007 You've lived in different places and have different experiences and AFAP wants to capture your knowledge....

Make the Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) aware of how the Army could improve well being locally as well as nationally by writing an issue of concern or improvement for Schinnen, Europe, or the overall Army.

Our upcoming February 2007 Conference will have delegates

The Schark Cave Christmas Eve Ceremony is cancelled for this year due to safety concerns regarding the cave's stability.

Construction/renovation projects are planned and next year's event should be a go. If you have any questions, contact 360-7731.

work on your issue as well as others in an effort to increase overall Army Community well being.

Look for the orange cardboard boxes issue boxes near our community AFAP Poster, "A World of Experience

Within Our Community", and fill out a form or email us at ACS-Schinnen@Eur.Army.mil. Call ACS at 443-7500.

Recipe's Wanted Do you have a recipe that you would like to share with other community members? Maybe a new twist on an old favorite, or a family favorite tradition that anyone could enjoy? Email it to the USAG Schinnen public affairs office along with a little history of the recipe for our new Tri-Border News Notes monthly recipe corner section. Whether it's a Dutch recipe (translated to English please), American, or anything in between, we'd love to hear from you. Email at paousagshi@benelux.army.mil

Dad's Christmas Miracle The theatrical production will be performed by the Alliance Players at JFC Brunssum Alliance Theatre at 7 p.m. on Nov. 30, Dec. 1, and Dec. 2 and will be shown at 2 p.m. on Dec. 2 and Dec. 3. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Basketball and Cheerleading Registration If your child is interested in Basketball or Cheerleading this winter season, register them for the B-Ball and Cheerleading Winter sports. Registration is now through Dec. 1. Children must be CYS members to register. Sign-up at the CYS center. For more information, contact Child and Youth Services

Dancing Fun Do you or you child want to learn how to ballet or dance the flamingo, then sign up for dancing fun today! Classes begin Jan. 8. Sign up in the JFC Brunssum Gymnasium upper room (3rd floor) or call CER at 045-563-6221 for more information.

SCHINNEN NOTES

SEAP Expands

Army Emergency Relief has further expanded the Stateside Spouse Education Assistance Program (SEAP) effective with Academic Year (AY) 2007-2008.

This program is now for the spouses of active duty and retired Army Soldiers and the widows and widowers of Soldiers who have died while on active duty or in a retired status. The spouse, widow or widower must reside within the United States. The purpose of the program is to assist spouses in furthering their education to afford them increased occupational opportunities.

This financial assistance scholarship is a GRANT and awarded based on financial need as evidenced by income, assets, family size and special/unique financial obligations or circumstances. Applicants will be required to provide a copy of the Student Aid Report (www.fafsa.ed.gov).

The maximum amount of money for academic year 2007-2008 is \$2,700.00.

The scholarships will be awarded annually for up to four academic years to attend post secondary school FULL TIME for the entire academic year as undergraduate level students. Spouses must apply every academic year.

Students must maintain at least a cumulative 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) to be eligible for the scholarship.

Scholarships are for undergraduate courses only at a post-secondary or vocational institution approved by the U.S. Department of Education. This program is not open to spouses who already have an undergraduate degree.

Applications are available to download from our web, www.aerhq.org, go to Scholarship Programs, Stateside Spouse Scholarship Assistance Program and click on [2007-2008 Stateside Spouse Application Form & Instructions Download](#).

Read the Instructions carefully before applying.

Scholarship money is for tuition, books, supplies and fees and will be paid by AER directly to the college or university.

Courses such as English as a Second Language, GED testing, CLEP testing and DANTES are not included this academic year and will be considered for academic year 2008-2009.

Spouses of active duty Army Soldiers who are assigned in Europe, Korea, Japan and Okinawa and also residing with the Soldier within those overseas commands remain eligible for the Spouse Education Assistance Program already established for their situation.

Spouses, widows or widowers who receive free tuition as a result of their employment will not receive tuition assistance from AER. However, they may apply for an AER SEAP scholarship for books, supplies and fees for the classes in which they are enrolled (must be a FULL TIME student).

APO Not For Your Business Use

Military customs investigators recently uncovered several German tax violations in which mail-order items were imported through the Army Post Office for use in someone's part-time business.

"German tax authorities will want the tax and duty fees due on those goods because they were intended for commercial use or resale," said Bill Johnson, director of the USAREUR Customs Executive Agency. He added that items sent through the APO are exempt from these levies because they are for personal use only.

Johnson said customers may use the APO to order things for themselves or their immediate family from companies located outside Germany. If those customers want to import things for resale, commercial business or to give to someone not authorized customs privileges, they must use the regular civilian mail or a parcel service, and pay any import duties and taxes. Customers who use APOs for unauthorized purposes are breaching customs and tax laws, even if they are buying articles for volunteer organizations they support.

Christmas in Europe

One of the great things about spending the holiday's in Europe is being able to partake in all of the European traditions and buy authentic European Christmas gifts.

To make shopping a little easier this year, the USAG Schinnen Community Relations Specialist, Rita Hoefnagels, has compiled a thorough list of all the Christmas markets in and around Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Log onto the USAG Schinnen webpage by following the link below to access your European Christmas Market guide today.

<http://www.usagschinnen.eur.army.mil/sites/local/docs/Christmasmarkets.pdf>

Prettige Feestdagen!!!